

Federal Interagency Task Force

Summary of Meeting April 14, 2005

Welcome. A great welcome from Tulare County Supervisor Steve Worthly and JoAnn Fabrics General Manager Bruce Nicotero.

Introductions and quick reports from all participants with some significant accomplishments on the part of SBA and other agencies.

Congressional Office Report. Update from Congressional Offices by Bob Jennings: CRS report delayed because of the illness of chief investigator; Good meeting of federal and state congressional offices "have never seen such unity in the Valley," May 11 panel at Great Valley Center on CRS findings and Task Force Plan to address.

Base Closings. At Bob Jennings suggestions and with Tim Lynch's explanation, it was decided to communicate to the Governor's BRAC Committee and to the Office of Defense the critical economic effects base closings will have in our area.

State Task Force. Teresa Plascencia (Office of Nicole Parra) and Julie Menzes (Governor's Office) gave update on the State Task Force: the bill is making its way and the governor is supportive of the concept.

Clean Air/Clean Energy. Paul Johnson and Kathy Diehl gave complete report on the Clean Air/Clean Energy Initiative projects and activities. (See full report on website)

Rural Infrastructure. Paul Boyer, Bill Hayter, and Heather Donahue reported on development of pilot projects for investment in water and wastewater infrastructure in Tulare-Kern and Merced Counties.

Jobs. Bill Jeffries (Kern EDC), Paul Saldana (Tulare EDC), John Lehn (Kings EDC), discussed the developing job clusters in the Valley. It was decided to accept the invitation of the Federal Reserve Bank and Treasury OCC and OTC to have a meeting with the CEOs and CRA directors of banks and other lenders who do business in the Valley to identify key investment opportunities.

Transportation as a regional issue. It was decided to organize a special meeting to discuss possibilities for developing a regional transportation plan that would take in air, rail, and roads with DOT/FTA playing the key role in convening for the Task Force.

Tulare County Issues. Paul Saldana discussed the importance of supporting project to provide four-year higher education in the Tulare/Kings area and received expressions of support.

Other. Frank Ruiz expressed the need for special funds for persons whose utility bills have been raised and perhaps a source or mechanism for emergency assistance. Angela Ausman from SSA offered to assist.

LOOK FOR OUR NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 WITH CEOs and CRA DIRECTORS OF BANKS AND LENDING INSTITUTIONS WHO DO BUSINESS IN THE VALLEY.

THIS WILL BE A BRIEFING ON THE TASK FORCE, AN ASSESSMENT OF THE VALLEY'S ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT, AND IDENTIFICATION OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.